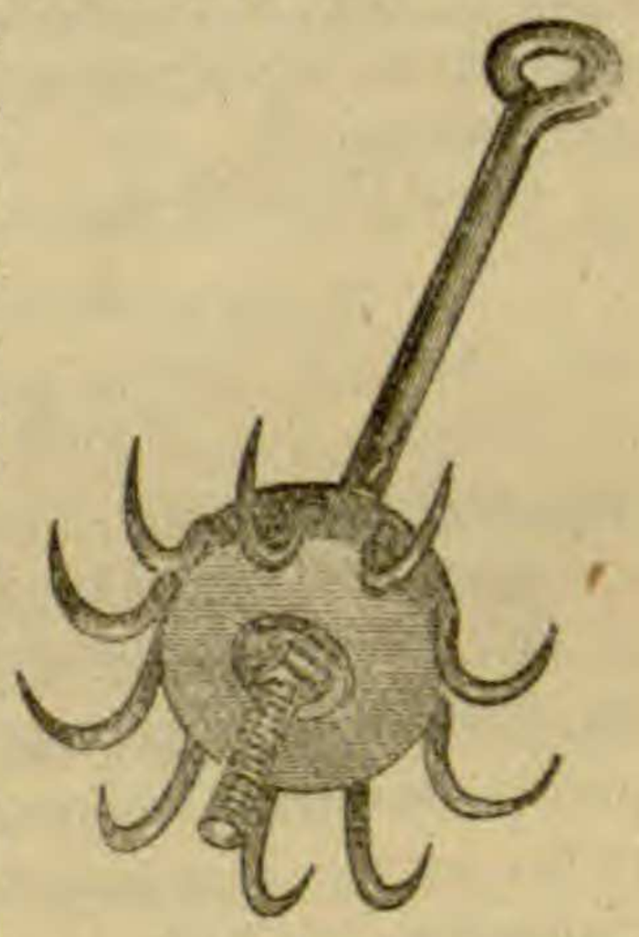
hardly nectariferous base: mature carpels longer than stipe: seeds oblong.

C. LACINIATA Leaves trifoliolate: lateral leaflets comparatively short petiolulate; all ovate in outline, nearly 3-parted, with divisions 3–7-cleft or incised and dentate, mostly acute: sepals linear-attenuate, and filiform-attenuate petals nearly of the next species: mature carpels longer than stipe: seeds oval.—*C. asplenifolia* Gray, Proc. Am. Acad., viii. 375, and Watson, Bot. Calif, ii. 427. This we have only from Oregon and Northwest California, collected by E. Hall, Cusick, Henderson, G. R. Vasey, Rattan. Only Cusick has sent it in blossom.

C. ASPLENIFOLIA Salisb. Leaves pinnately 5-foliolate; with leaflets all slender-petiolulate, ovate-oblong in outline, and pinnately divided or parted, lower divisions short petiolulate and upper confluent: sepals and petals filiform-attenuate, nearly equal; the latter with thickened concave nectary between middle and base: mature carpels shorter than the stipe. We have this only from British Columbia and Alaska.—ASA GRAY.

Dredge for Chara.—Last year, in giving directions for the collection of Characeæ, I recommended a modification of a dredge used by Prof. Nordstedt, of Sweden. I am constrained to say that a dredge more like his original one is better for deep water, and that the one here illustrated answers perfectly every purpose, provided one carries, as I now do, a small rake for shallower water. This dredge consists of a disk of lead about three inches in diameter and three-fourths of an inch thick, in the edge of which are imbedded about ten hooks. I have had them bent backward in order to furnish a kind of "shoulder" to give greater strength in case of catching in an obstruction. These will firmly hold a boat, or raise a couple of hundred pounds from the bottom. Through the center of this disk is passed, vertically, an iron rod about a foot long, which has a ring in the upper end, for a line, and which is allowed to project about three inches below the disk. It takes apart readily by means of a nut and screw on the rod, and packs in a small box. It weighs about two and a half pounds, and is made by Flynn & Doyle, Bantam, Conn., at a cost of four dollars.—T. F. ALLEN.



OPEN LETTERS.

Vitality of seeds.

In making the excavation for the new building of Franklin College last fall, the dirt was hauled upon the campus, and in a short time it was noticed where the soil was placed a great many specimens of poke-weed (Phytolacca decandra) were growing. The north building was erected in